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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Immortal, invisible God Only Wise, all Your promises prove true. You gladden us with the glory of Your handiwork, for Your splendor surrounds us.

Empower our Senators to give their best to You and country, rising above obstacles with faith in the power of Your providence. May they serve this land as Your obedient servants, refusing to become discouraged because of the daunting challenges they face. Lord, use them to make America a refuge for the oppressed and a bright beacon of hope for those who dwell in darkness.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Following leader remarks, the Senate will be in morning business until 5 p.m. today. Following that morning business, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Gary Taranto to be a U.S. circuit judge for the Federal Circuit and the nomination of Andrew Gordon to be a U.S. district judge for the District of Nevada. At 5:30 there

will be at least one rollcall vote—on the Taranto nomination. We hope the Gordon nomination will be confirmed by voice.

We hope to begin consideration of the continuing appropriations bill which we received from the House. It is going to be filed immediately. We need to complete action on this bill by the end of the week.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. I am told S. 505 is ready for its second reading; is that correct?

The President pro tempore. The majority leader is correct. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 505) to prohibit the use of drones to kill citizens of the United States within the United States.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings with respect to this bill.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this evening the Senate will vote on two judicial nominations: Richard Gary Taranto, of Maryland, to be U.S. circuit judge for the Federal Circuit and Andrew Patrick Gordon, of Nevada, to be U.S. district judge for the District of Nevada.

Andrew Gordon, of Las Vegas, graduated from Harvard Law School in 1987 after receiving his bachelor's degree from Claremont McKenna College in southern California—the so-called Harvard of the West. He is a partner with the law firm of McDonald Carano Wilson, where he began practicing many years ago and is now a partner in that law firm. As a member of that firm, he handles complex commercial disputes. He focused on alternative conflict resolution and regularly serves as an arbi-

trator and mediator. He also performs a variety of pro bono work, including handling adoption proceedings. For example, he represented an inmate on death row in a habeas corpus proceeding.

He has consistently been named as one of the best lawyers in America. I had the good fortune to practice law at the same time his father Hank practiced law in Las Vegas. Hank was a well-known lawyer in Las Vegas.

There is no doubt in my mind that Andy Gordon will serve the court well and be one of Nevada's great judges. I am looking forward to his confirmation.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are going to take up legislation this week to fund the government through the end of the fiscal year. I applaud the committee work done by Chairman MIKULSKI and Ranking Member SHELBY. These two individuals are seasoned veterans. They have worked hard to get this legislation done, as only they could do. They are two of our most senior Members and two of the most respected Members.

The measure we are going to work on starting today was passed by the House of Representatives last week. It is not perfect, and we hope to improve upon that. There will be amendments offered. I am working on a process to consider those amendments. This week will offer another opportunity for the Senate to return to regular order, an opportunity for this body to legislate through cooperation, through compromise, as we used to do. This legislation will be a test of the Senate's good will. America's economy is poised to grow and expand. The last thing it needs is another manufactured crisis, such as a government shutdown, to derail its progress.

For some public servants the political fires are lit by their first trip to

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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